

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRAVDA UNLEASHES STRONGEST REBUTTAL OF EGYPTIAN
CRITICISMS TO DATE

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: ON EVE OF SADAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON,
OVER SIGNATURE OF "OBSERVER", OCTOBER 25 PRAVDA PROVIDES A
REASONED AND VERY AUTHORITATIVE REBUTTAL OF RECENT EGYPTIAN
CHARGES AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, A CLEAR EXPOSITION OF CURRENT
SOVIET POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF ITS
OBJECTIONS TO THE SINAI II AGREEMENT OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT OUT-
SIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE. DESPITE ITS BITTER
IMPLIED ATTACK ON SADAT, ARTICLE ENDS WITH AN EXPRESSION OF
READINESS TO PICK UP THE PIECES WITH EGYPT IF LATTER IS WILLING.
THE SECTION ON MIDDLE EAST POLICY ESSENTIALLY EXPRESSES PUBLICLY
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WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN STATING PRIVATELY ABOUT SINAI

II, AND NEXT STEPS, AND STRONGLY EMPHASIZES GENEVA AS THE "APPROPRIATE EXISTING FORUM" FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS, AND THE NECESSITY FOR PLO (AND SOVIET) PARTICIPATION IN THE NEXT STEPS. NO SPECIFIC TIME FRAME FOR RECONVENING GENEVA IS MENTIONED. INTRODUCTION OF U.S. TECHNICIANS IN SINAI, HOWEVER, IS DESCRIBED AS "A NEW ELEMENT FRAUGHT WITH DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES." TAKEN AS A WHOLE, THE PIECE IS OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN WITH SADAT'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON IN MIND. WHILE IT MAINTAINS A TOUGH POSITION AND A LOFTY TONE, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO CLOSE OUT ANY PRACTICAL OPTION FOR NEXT STEPS AS LONG AS THEY ARE UNDERTAKEN WITH SOVIET PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. IN THE PAGES OF THE EGYPTIAN PRESS, OBSERVER BEGINS, THERE ARE APPEARING STATEMENTS CALCULATED TO THROW A SHADOW ON THE SOVIET UNION, ON ITS POLICY RE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS AND PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO EGYPT. "CERTAIN PERSONS" ARE GOING SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS GUILTY IF THE EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP IS TODAY SUBJECT TO CRITICISM FROM OTHER ARAB STATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT SEPARATE EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT. AND THESE STATEMENTS, PRAVDA GOES ON TO NOTE, ARE NOT BEING REBUFFED BY THOSE IN EGYPT WHO DETERMINE ITS POLICY. FOR THIS REASON "IT IS APPROPRIATE" TO GIVE CERTAIN BASIC FACTS CONCERNING SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND THE SOVIET UNION'S POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS A WHOLE.

3. THE USSR, OBSERVER CONTINUES, ALWAYS BUILT ITS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT ON A PRINCIPLED, FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF OPPOSITION TO IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM AND SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. CITING BREZHNEV'S SPEECH AT THE 24TH CPSU CONGRESS TO BACK THIS UP, OBSERVER THEN CHRONICLES SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS SINCE 1952, TAKING DUE NOTE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF "REGULAR MEETINGS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND SOVIET LEADERS." SOVIET SUPPORT IN 1956, 1967, AND 1973 IS RECALLED AND, OBSERVER SAYS, A FIRM INTERNATIONAL-LEGAL BASIS FOR POLITICAL COOPERATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE WAS "ESTABLISHED" BY THE 1971 TREATY.

4. HOWEVER, TODAY THERE ARE "ACTIVISTS" IN EGYPT, OBSERVER COMPLAINS, WHO MAKE MATTERS LOOK AS IF THE 1971 TREATY WAS IMPOSED ON EGYPT. BUT "EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT SUFFER FROM STRANGE FORGET-CONFIDENTIAL

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FULNESS KNOWS WHO IT WAS, THE USSR OR EGYPT, WHO FIRST RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE TREATY." IN THIS CONNECTION, OBSERVER RECALLS SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT "WE WANTED THAT TREATY...I AIMED FOR SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN THE NAME OF OUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF OUR DESCENDANTS."

5. PRAVDA THEN RECAPITULATES SOVIET ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT IN GREAT DETAIL, WITH EMPHASIS ON ASWAN AND

HELWAN. THOSE NOW CRITICIZING SOVIET AID, OBSERVER STATES, DO SO "BY THE LIGHT OF ELECTRICITY AND EATING BREAD PRODUCED BECAUSE OF ASWAN." ON THE MILITARY SIDE, THE SOVIET UNION NATURALLY MET NASSER'S 1955 REQUEST WITH "DEEP UNDERSTANDING", SUPPLIED "MODERN ARMAMENTS" AND ALSO GAVE "BIG HELP IN PREPARING THE PERSONAL COMPOSITION OF EGYPT'S ARMED FORCES." AFTER THE 1967 WAR, EGYPT'S MILITARY POTENTIAL WAS FULLY REESTABLISHED WITH THE HELP OF THE SOVIET UNION. "THE FIRSTCLASS QUALITY OF SOVIET ARMS" WAS DEMONSTRATED WITH SPECIAL CLARITY IN THE OCTOBER DAYS OF 1973 IN "REPULSING THE ONSLAUGHT" OF THE ISRAELI AGGRESSOR. "ONE MUST REACH FULL SHAMELESSNESS TO DECLARE, AS CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE NOW DOING," THAT EGYPT THEN RECEIVED ONLY "SOME SUITCASES OF SPARE PARTS" FROM THE SOVIET UNION. AFTER THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR THE SOVIET UNION HAS CONSISTENTLY PURSUED A COURSE OF FRIENDLY COOPERATION WITH EGYPT IN THE MILITARY FIELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING AGREEMENTS. BUT COOPERATION CANNOT DEVELOP IF ONE OF THE SIDES CONDUCTS A LINE WHICH UNDERMINES IT, OBSERVER STATES.

6. SOVIET POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SAYS OBSERVER, IS BASED ON PRINCIPLE: OPPOSITION TO AGRESSION, RETURN OF LANDS BELONGING TO THEM TO COUNTIRES SUBJECTED TO AGGRESSION, AND FREE, INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT FOR EVERY STATE. IN PARTICULAR, A FIRM AND JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY ON THREE BASES: "FULL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY THEM IN 1967...SATISFACTION OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING ITS RIGHT TO CREATION OF ITS OWN STATE....SECURING THE AUTONOMOUS, INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL STATES AND PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST."

7. FOR ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT ON THIS JUST BASIS, OBSERVER WRITES, THERE IS AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM, THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. "IN THAT FORUM ALL ASPECTS OF THE SETTLEMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED AND RESOLVED, AND ALL SIDES IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE PLO AND ALSO THE USSR AND THE USA AS CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMEN, SHOULD BE INVOLVED."

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IATELY INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE PLO AND ALSO THE USSR AND THE USA AS CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMEN, SHOULD BE INVOLVED."

8. ON PARTIAL STEPS, OBSERVER SAYS, THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT REJECT THE POSSIBILITY OF REALIZING ONE OR ANOTHER PARTIAL, INTERMEDIATE (PROMEZHUTOCHNIYE) MEASURES. BUT SUCH MEASURES MUST BE CONSTITUENT, ORGANIC PARTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, THAT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT AND ADOPTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, "WITH ITS FULL COMPOSITION." THE USSR OPPOSES USE OF THIS MECHANISM MERELY AS AN UMBRELLA TO APPROVE STEPS UNDERTAKEN OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE. "IN THIS LIES THE IDFFERENCE OF PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THOSE WHO UNDER THR PRETEXT OF A 'STEP-BY-STEP' POLICY IN FACT LEAD MATTERS TOWARD FREEZING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TOWARD PERPETUATION OF ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS."

9. ACCORDING TO OBSERVER, THIS PRINCIPLED SOVIET POSITION HAS BEEN "CLEARLY CONFIRMED" BY CRITICISM OF THE EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT BY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, TO THE EFFECT THAT IN RETURN FOR A TINY PIECE OF LAND EGYPT "STRUCK A BLOW AT EFFORTS DIRECTED AT SECURING THE LEGITIMATE AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE", AND DAMAGED ARAB UNITY.

10. PRAVDA DESCRIBES INTROCUCTION OF U.S. PERSONNEL AS "A NEW ELEMENT FRAUGHT WITH FAR-REACHING DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES," AND REFERS TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE U.S. INVOLMENT IN VIET NAM FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS. SOVIET UNION FOR ITS PART, OBSERVER SAYS, HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING TO INCREASE ARAB UNITY: "THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE MEETING OF SOVIET WITH ARAB LEADERS, NOT A SINGLE SOVIET-ARAB DOCUMENT WHERE THE SOVIET SIDE DID NOT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITY OF THE ARAB STATES, OF STRENGTHENING THERE UNITY OF ACTION AGAINST CONTINUING ISRAELI AGREESION." CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY, ONLY SHOW THE BAD CONSCIENCE OF THOSE WHO MAKE THEM.

11. IN THIS SITUATION, SAYS OBSERVER, OUR COUNTRY REMAINS TRUE TO ITS PRINCIPLED FOREIGN POLICY LINE. HE CONCLUDES WITH A QUOTE FROM THE BREZHNEV-KOSYGIN-PODGORNY GREETINGS TO SADAT ON THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1952 REVOLUTION EXPRESSING "THE READINESS OF THE SOVIET UNION TO STREGTHEN 'RELATIONS OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS' IN THE FUTURE AS WELL."

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